THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) One such proposal is pending with the Government.

(b) and (c) On the recommendations of Medical Council of India, Central Government has given permission for starting of Raja Rajeshwari Medical College at Bangalore by Thai Moogambigai Charitable Trust, Bangalore with intake of 100 students during the year 2005-06.

(d) S.S. Institute of Medical Sciences at Davangere, Karnataka.

(e) Grant of permission for establishment of new medical college is subject to the college fulfilling the required facilities as per the MCI Regulations. Since, the time schedule prescribed in the Regulations of MCI for grant of permission for establishment of new medical college for the academic year 2005-06 is 15th July, 2005 and that the Supreme Court in the case of Mridul Dhar V/s Union of India has decided that the time schedule prescribed in the Regulations is to be adhered to, it is not possible to give permission for the current academic year.

Spurious medicine manufacturers

†1363. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies found indulged in the manufacturing of spurious medicines during the last five years;

(b) the number of companies out of these against which action has been taken; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by the Government to check such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Manufacture and sale of spurious/counterfeit drugs is primarily a clandestine activity. To this extent, it is difficult to detect the manufacture or movement of spurious drugs.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

However, as per feedback available from State Drugs Controllers 35570, 36947, 38824, 43138 and 40862 drug samples were tested during the period 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 out of which 115, 112, 96, 129 and 118 samples respectively were found spurious which is 0.32, 0.30, 0.33, 0.29 and 0.288% of the samples reported spurious.

(b) Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including taking legal action against the unscruplous persons rests with the State Governments. In view of this, as per the feedback available from State Drugs Controllers 563, 651, 538, 449 and 570 prosecutions were launched whereas 163, 245, 171, 105 and 166 cases were decided during the period 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 respectively.

(c) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, it is the responsibility of State Governments through their respective Drug Control Organizations to regulate manufacture and sale of drugs as well as to keep a surveillance over possible movement of spurious/counterfeit drugs.

Trading in counterfeit product including drugs is reported world over. However, keeping in view the serious implications of spurious drugs on public health as well as the loss to genuine industry, the Govt. has taken various measures to combat this menace.

(i) Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Govts. to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs.

(ii) A Capacity Building Project through World Bank assistance has been taken up to provide substantial assistance to State Govts. to upgrade drug testing facilities or to establish new drug testing laboratories.

It is expected to increase the number of samples tested in the country from about 36,000 samples to 1,00,000 samples per year and to reduce the reporting time to less than a month as against the present period from 3 to 6 months.

(iii) Specific training programme for regulatory officials of State Govts. on logistics of intelligence work, prosecutions etc. has been

conducted with the assistance of FDA, Maharashtra. This acitivity is proposed to be continued.

(iv) In order to ensure efficient information exchange between drug regulatory officers in the country, in respect of licensing, sampling, prosecution, etc., a countrywide computer networking project has been undertaken by the Central Govt. This will enable the Central Govt. to regularly monitor the enforcement activities and recommend corrective measures.

(v) Pharma industry and trade has been motivated to fight menace of spurious drugs as a shared responsibility. No. of cases could be successfully detected through the initiative taken by Pharma industry involving hiring of retired intelligence officers.

(vi) The recommendation of Mashelkar Committee which was constituted by the Government in 2003, to examine all aspects relating to the drug regulatory system in the country including the problem of spurious/sub standard drugs, are being followed for necessary change in legislation as well as improvement of enforcement activities.

(vii) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May 2005 to amend the said Act to provide for stricter penalties to the offenders including a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 1,00,000/-. It was further proposed to make the offence non-bailable, cognizable and to provide for designated courts for speedy trial of the cases.

The proposed amendments will make the law deterrent to the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The involvement of enforcing agencies like Police will help in speedy investigation to book the culprits and in controlling anti-social elements in such activities.

Lack of resources for health-care facilities

1364. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Nirman is not possible until the health care is strengthened which was facing many challenges due to lack of resources;